

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5482

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

SECDEF

COMUSMACTHAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, ELAB, TH

SUBJ: THAI SECURITY GUARD STRIKE

REF: BANGKOK 19613

SUMMARY: ABOUT 260 SECURITY GUARDS FROM VAYAMA, UTAPAO AND KORAT WENT ON STRIKE JUNE 8 IN PROTEST AGAINST THE DISMISSAL OF SECURITY GUARDS LAST DECEMBER AND THIS APRIL. THE GUARDS' DEMANDS, WHICH REPORTEDLY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SEVERANCE PAY BENEFITS, WERE PRESENTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE JUNE 9. REGULAR THAI ARMED FORCES TROOPS ARE FILLING IN AT THE THREE LOCATIONS INVOLVED TO AVOID ANY REDUCTION IN BASE SECURITY. END SUMMARY.

1. ABOUT 260 OF THE TOTAL FORCE OF 4400 THAI SECURITY GUARDS WENT ON STRIKE JUNE 8, AND IT CANNOT BE RULED OUT THAT THE STRIKE MIGHT SPREAD. MANY CAME TO BANGKOK TO PARTICIPATE IN
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A RALLY AT THE SANAM LUANG. THE GUARDS' DEMANDS,

WHICH WERE PRESENTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ON JUNE 9, REPORTEDLY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SEVERANCE PAY BENEFITS FOR GUARDS DISMISSED IN DECEMBER OF LAST YEAR AND APRIL OF THIS YEAR. OFFICIALS AT SUPREME COMMAND, HOWEVER, HAVE STATED THAT SEVERANCE PAY WAS PAID IN FULL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THAI LABOR LAW. PART OF THE PROBLEM SEEMS TO BE IGNORANCE ON THE GUARDS' PART OF THE INCREASED BENEFITS ALREADY AGREED TO BY THE US AND INCORPORATED IN MACTHAI'S WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH SUPREME COMMAND. THUS, THEY ARE IN SOME INSTANCES DEMONSTRATING TO OBTAIN IN PRINCIPLE BENEFITS TO WHICH THEY ARE ALREADY ENTITLED.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE HAS INDICATED IT WILL ISSUE A RESPONSE TO THE GUARDS' DEMANDS JULY 11. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE REPORTS THAT STUDENT GROUPS FROM BANGKOK WOULD GO TO THE BASES TO DEMONSTRATE IN SYMPATHY WITH THE GUARDS, THIS HAS NOT MATERIALIZED.

3. REGULAR THAI MILITARY UNITS HAVE COOPERATED FULLY IN PICKING UP THE SLACK CREATED BY THE STRIKE AND THERE HAS BEEN NO REDUCTION IN SECURITY AT THE BASES. WE EXPECT MORE MINOR STRIKES OR WORK STOPPAGES OF THIS SORT AMONG THAI SECURITY GUARDS AND OTHER WORKERS AT U.S. TENANTED INSTALLATIONS IN REACTION TO THEIR EXPECTATION OF LARGE-SCALE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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